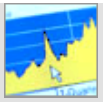
Local Government

ABS clients in the Local Government sector include individual councils, groups of councils, and Local Government Associations. This page is aimed at assisting these clients to find information required for planning and delivering services to their communities.

Finding data for Local Government Areas

The ABS has a range of data for Local Government Areas, including Census data and various demographic publications.



Helping you use data

The ABS provides training and other services and resources to help you use data.

Keeping you informed

Keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and information.

Finding data for States/Territories

The ABS also produces a large range of Social and Economic data at State/Territory level.

How the ABS uses your data

Where does the data you supply to the ABS end up?

Helpful Links for Local Government Organisations

This page provides links to other government websites.

This page first published 18 June 2010, last updated 19 September 2012

Local Government

Regional and Local Data

The National Regional Profile presents a range of key social and economic data covering a five year time period. Profiles are available for smaller regions, including Local Government Areas and Statistical Areas, as well as larger regions up to and including Australia.

The Regional Data in ABS Products page helps you locate regional data in ABS publications.

Census Data

An extensive range of data is available for Local Government Areas from the Census of Population and Housing.

The Census data page provides you with access to all Census data that is available online. It contains a description of all the products available (including TableBuilder), allowing you to choose which product best suits your needs.

The Census home page provides links to other information about the Census, including access to historical data and reference material.

Releases by Topic

The following releases contain data for Local Government Areas across Australia.

Regional Population Growth (cat. no. 3218.0)
Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia (cat. no. 3235.0)
Births (cat. no. 3301.0)
Deaths (cat. no. 3302.0)
Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)
Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002)
Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)

Using Data for Statistical Local Areas

Some historical ABS releases use Statistical Local Areas (SLA). The SLA was a general purpose spatial unit in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) used to collect and disseminate statistics. SLAs were based on the boundaries of incorporated bodies of local government where they exist. Where there is no incorporated body of local government, SLAs are defined to cover the unincorporated areas.

One or more SLAs form each Local Government Area (LGA), and so some data at SLA level can be aggregated to LGAs. You can look up the SLAs that make up your LGA in: Australian Standard Geographical Classification (cat. no. 1216.0).

From July 2011 the ABS has been progressively replacing the current ASGC with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as its geographical framework. SLAs are not part of the ASGS and therefore data at this geographic level will progressively become unavailable. LGAs are part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it

currently provides.

A summary table of the ABS publications impacted by the transition from the ASGC to the ASGS is included on the ASGS Implementation Schedule for ABS Publications page.

Tailored Information

ABS can customise data tailored to your needs. Read about our Information Consultancy Services.

Help

See Help for search tips and other information on using the ABS website.

If you are unable to find the information you need, or require further statistical information, you can phone our ABS National Information and Referral Service (1300 135 070), or email or fax us. Details are in Contact Us.

This page first published 2 April 2008, last updated 24 June 2013

Local Government

Understanding Statistics

Knowing how to understand and use statistics is vital for informed decision-making. The Understanding Statistics page provides a link to a range of tools and resources to assist users to understand, interpret and evaluate statistical information.

Other Reference material on the ABS website includes:

Methods and Standards provides links to the standards and classifications used in ABS data.

An Introduction to Sample Surveys: A User's Guide (cat. no. 1299.0)

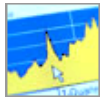
Statistical Consultancy Services and Outposted Officers

Do you need to design a survey form, and don't know where to start? Do you have data requiring complex statistical analysis? Our consultants have the expertise to help clarify your objectives and plan your project effectively.

The ABS Statistical Consultancy service provides access to professional statisticians with wide ranging experience and expertise in survey design, data analysis, and specialist knowledge in a range of statistical fields, including time series analysis and forms design.

You may have a need for short term or medium term in-house statistical expertise. The ABS can provide Outposted Officers to assist with statistical projects.

For further information on Statistical Consultancy services or Outposted Officers, email us at client.services@abs.gov.au.



Redistributing Data

The bulk of ABS website content can now be redistributed by users under Creative Commons Licensing. This allows users to re-use, build upon and distribute ABS data, even commercially. See Creative Commons Licensing for more details.

If you wish to redistribute customised ABS data that is not freely available on the ABS website, you may need to enter into a licencing agreement with the ABS.

Find out more in How do I become a Licenced Intermediary?

Creative Commons

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Local Government

Providing Data to the ABS

Local Government bodies provide data to the ABS in a number of collections and surveys. Examples are Local Government Finance statistics and monthly details of building approvals. Local Government may also be selected in other ABS sample surveys.

Information about participating in ABS surveys can be found in Survey Participant Information. This includes information about confidentiality, ABS legislation, frequently asked questions, and information about household and business surveys.

Where does your information go?

ABS releases that include information supplied by Local Government include:

Government Financial Estimates, Australia (cat. no. 5501.0.55.001)
Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

Further information about these releases can be found in the following Theme pages:

Construction
Government Finance Statistics

Building Approvals - More than one Statistic

Building Approvals are one of the Key National Indicators (1345.0) of the Australian economy, and are also used in compiling other economic data.

Building Approvals Collection

See Collection Information - Building Approvals for further information about Building Approvals.

See the latest release of Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0).

Building Activity Survey

The quarterly Building Activity Survey uses a sample of building jobs from Building Approvals, and collects information about those building jobs to produce estimates of building activity.

See Collection Information - Building Activity Survey for further information about the Building Activity Survey.

See the latest release of Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0).

Australian National Accounts

Estimates of work done from the Building Activity Survey are used in the compilation of 'private gross fixed capital formation' in the quarterly Australian National Accounts.

See Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2000 (cat. no. 5216.0) for further information about 'private gross fixed capital formation'.

See the latest release of Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat.no. 5206.0).

This page first published 2 April 2008, last updated 22 March 2012

Local Government

Local Government and ABS Newsletter

The ABS produces an annual newsletter (with updates during the year) aimed at keeping Local Government informed of new releases and other developments of interest. The newsletter can be found at:

Local Government and ABS (cat. no. 1376.0)

To subscribe to newsletters, see Email Notification Service.

Keep up to date with ABS Geography

From July 2011 the ABS has been progressively replacing the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. The final edition of the ASGC (July 2011) was released in October 2011. Local Government Areas (LGAs) are one of the non-ABS structures of the ASGS and are approximated by Mesh Blocks. The ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

Further information can be found in the following:

The ABS Geography Portal
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (cat. no. 1216.0)
Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures (cat. no. 1270.0.55.003)

Keep up to date with ABS Releases

Email Notification Service - You can receive news about our latest releases, or be advised when updates are available for the topics you are interested in.

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) - an easy way to view the latest headlines.

Or to see what has been released by date, from 'Statistics' on the Home Page, go to Statistics by Release Date.

The ABS also has a Release Advice and Release Calendar which show the expected release dates for ABS publications for the next six months.

Other ABS Newsletters

ABS Newsletters on various topics are another way to keep informed.

From the Newsletters page, search by title to find newsletters of interest, including:

Ag Mag - The Agriculture Newsletter (cat. no. 7101.0)
Migrant Statistics News (cat. no. 3413.0)
What's New in Regional Statistics (cat. no. 1386.0)

To subscribe to newsletters, see Email Notification Service.

For Census product news, articles, release schedules and general Census information see the Census Newsboard.

Using Topics @ a Glance pages

Topics @ a Glance pages are another way of keeping informed about specific topics. Choose one of the themes under Topics @ a Glance on the Home Page, then choose a topic.

Some examples of Topics @ a Glance pages are:

Construction
Census
Demography
Regional

This page first published 2 April 2008, last updated 19 September 2012

Local Government

Links to Local Government Associations

Australian Local Government Association
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory

Links to State Government Departments

New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital Territory

Links to Federal Government Departments

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

While care has been taken in selecting the links provided, the ABS takes no responsibility for the content of external internet sites.

This page first published 2 April 2008, last updated 19 March 2012